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highly colored decorations with figures that are called wind or compass roses. Other charts are virtually specimens of the art of the illuminator, as, for example, that of Petrus Roselli, on which are castles, tents, animals, flags, etc.; or that of Jaume Olives (1566), with a representation of the madonna and child, large wind roses, etc., in many colors. Dr. Stevenson shows that there was some system in the application of the pigments. His analysis of the whole subject of portolan charts is the best succinct account of the subject that the reviewer has ever seen. VICTOR HUGO PALTSITS

STUART, E. R. **Topographical drawing.** ix and 128 pp.; maps, diagrs., index. McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., New York, Hill Publ. Co., Ltd., London, 1917. $2.00. 9½ x 6.

The European War has awakened interest in map reading, and our own entrance therein has accelerated the study and practice of map making. While numerous books cover the field-surveying end of the subject, topographical drawing has ususally been dismissed with a short chapter. Until the United States Geographic Board, in 1912, adopted standard conventional signs for the use of all map-making departments of the government, every topographer was a law unto himself.

Colonel Stuart has taken the next step and provided a text covering standards of practice which combine good execution with economy of draughting time. The first six chapters, comprising an introduction, map projection, instruments and drawing materials, plotting, special methods in free-hand drawing, and practice in topographical drawing, are intended largely for reference. In the next five chapters are illustrated and explained the various conventional signs. Map drawing is then taken up in the final chapter and is illustrated by a large plate in four colors. JAMES GORDON STEESE

BENNETT, T. L. **On the effect of map distortion on bearings and distances.** Diagrs. *Cairo Sci. Journ.*, No. 99, Vol. 8, 1914, pp. 257-262.

O'FARRILL, RAMON. **Problemas en el mapa.** (De un libro en preparación). *Bol. del Ejército*, Vol. 1, 1916, No. 3, pp. 219-235. Havana.

ZINGER (CINGER), N. J. **Sur les espèces les plus avantageuses des projections coniques.** *Bull. Acad. Imp. des Sci.* [*de Pétrograd*], Ser. 6, 1916, No. 17, pp. 1693-1704. [In Russian.]

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of the "Geographical Review":

May I venture a mild protest against the review of "Principles of Aerography"' (pp. 167-168, February issue), which appears more like an attack than a well-considered criticism?

Granted that a reviewer, if an instructor, has a right to express an opinion of the availability of a work for class purposes. No objection is made to the indiviuual view, which in this case is adverse; but it is fair to say that some good authorities have without solicitation expressed a view to the contrary. The present opinion is in a class by itself.

When, however, an instructor seriously puts forth the view that the use of modern scientific terms is confusing to a student, because older and inaccurate terms have been used heretofore, the statement must not go unchallenged. The reviewer objects to "aërography" and prefers "meteorology" and "meteorological." Now "aërography" is as logical as "geography" or "hydrography," and no mind of ordinary intelligence would be thrown into confusion by using it. There are good reasons, too, why "meteorology" should not be used in describing the structure of the atmosphere.

Again, the term kilobar, to which exception is taken by the reviewer, is in no way more difficult to comprehend than kilogram. In physics and chemistry a bar is a definite unit, the unit of pressure expressed in terms of force. It is the force which would give to one gram an acceleration of one centimeter per second per second. One thousand bars would naturally be a kilobar and a million bars a megabar. The hundredth part of a bar would be a centibar and the thousandth part, a millibar. The value of a millibar may be written .001 dyne/cm^2, or as 10^{-3} bar. We need such a value because in absolute manometers differences in pressure of this magnitude must be measured. Again, with modern condensation high-vacua pumps, we operate with pressures as low as 10^{-5} bar, near the low limit of pressure. An instructor who proposes that his classes call a kilobar by the ancient name of millibar could with equal firmness insist that his students call a kilogram a milligram. Of course it would not be long before his students took him to task.

I make no comment on the rest of the review, which seems to lack coherency; but it may be noted that in one place the reviewer has failed to note the word *effective* in connection with the temperature of space and there is no contradiction such as he supposes.

Very respectfully,
ALEXANDER McADIE